Assistance for Cultivation of Jatropha in Chhattisgarh

3646. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has approved on over Rs. 1200 crores demonstration project for the cultivation of Jatropha;

(b) how much amount has been proposed to be allocated to Chhattisgarh and how much area in this State has been in use for Jatropha plantation; and

(c) what special incentives have been provided to Chhattisgarh by the National Mission on Bio-diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission has accroded its "in-principle" approval for taking up a Demonstration Programme for plantation of Jatropha Curcas in 4 lakh hectares of wastelands in both forest and non-forest areas over a period of 5 years. As per the Detailed Project Report, 30000 hectares of wastelands is likely to be taken up for Jatropha plantation in Chhattisgarh State under demonstration programme.

Authority for Development of Rainfed Areas

3647. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:
DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to set up a National Authority for sustainable development of rainfed areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had received any recommendations in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Hon'ble Prime Minister in his address to the Nation on 15th August 2005 announced to set up a National Rainfed Area Authority. The matter has been discussed in the Planning Commission, in first meeting of Agriculture Coordination Committee and in the Committee of Secretaries.

Assistance to States for establishing agriculture research centres

3648. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to give financial assistance to establish State-level agriculture research centres to the State Governments;

(b) if so, the name of the scheme and its essential features;

(c) the name of the States who have sought financial and other assistance in this regard; and

(d) the States to whom assistance, if any has been granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Bio-Diesel Production

3649. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether plants/crops have been identified in the country for bio-diesel production;